

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A spinal orthopedic device and tool set, comprising:

an intervertebral spacer device having a first baseplate and a second baseplate mounted to one another, each of said first and second baseplates having a perimetrical region, which faces the other of said first and second baseplates, wherein at least one of said first and second baseplates include an engagement hole disposed within said perimetrical region, said engagement hole having a first end and a second end, said first end facing toward said perimetrical region of one of said first and second baseplates and said second end disposed within the other of said perimetrical region of the other one of said first and second baseplates; and

a manipulation tool having a proximal end, a distal end, and a shaft located along a longitudinal axis of said manipulation tool between said proximal and distal ends, said shaft including a central channel coaxial with said longitudinal axis, said central channel housing ~~and~~ a post, ~~said post being permanently coupled with said manipulation tool~~ and having a first position corresponding to said post being disposed entirely within said distal end of said manipulation tool, and a second position corresponding to said post extending outwardly from said distal end of said manipulation tool, wherein when said post is in said second position said post may be disposed within said engagement hole of said intervertebral device such that at least one of said first and second baseplates may be secured to said manipulation tool.

2. (original) The spinal orthopedic device and tool set of claim 1, wherein the at least one of the baseplates has a

plurality of engagement holes and the post is engageable with any of the plurality of engagement holes.

3. (original) The spinal orthopedic device and tool set of claim 2, wherein each of the plurality of engagement holes is at a respective desired surgical approach aspect of the at least one of the baseplates.

4. (original) The spinal orthopedic device and tool set of claim 3, wherein each baseplate has an inwardly facing surface and an outwardly facing surface; and wherein the baseplates are mounted to one another such that the inwardly facing surfaces face one another and the outwardly facing surfaces face away from one another; and wherein one of the inwardly facing surfaces has the plurality of engagement holes.

5. (original) The spinal orthopedic device and tool set of claim 3, wherein one of the desired surgical approach aspects is an anterior aspect of the at least one of the baseplates.

6. (original) The spinal orthopedic device and tool set of claim 3, wherein at least one of the desired surgical approach aspects is an antero-lateral aspect of the at least one of the baseplates.

7. (original) The spinal orthopedic device and tool set of claim 1, wherein the at least one of the baseplates has three engagement holes and the post is engageable with any of the three of engagement holes.

8. (original) The spinal orthopedic device and tool set of claim 7, wherein each of the three engagement holes is at a respective desired surgical approach aspect of the at least one of the baseplates.

9. (original) The spinal orthopedic device and tool set of claim 8, wherein one of the desired surgical approach aspects is an anterior aspect of the at least one of the baseplates.

10. (original) The spinal orthopedic device and tool set of claim 9, wherein each baseplate has an inwardly facing surface and an outwardly facing surface; and wherein the baseplates are mounted to one another such that the inwardly facing surfaces face one another and the outwardly facing surfaces face away from one another; and wherein one of the inwardly facing surfaces has the plurality of engagement holes.

11. (original) The spinal orthopedic device and tool set of claim 9, wherein the other desired surgical approach aspects are a left antero-lateral aspect and a right antero-lateral aspect of the at least one of the baseplates.

12. (original) The spinal orthopedic device and tool set of claim 1, wherein the at least one engagement hole has a longitudinal axis parallel to both an anterior-posterior plane and a medial-lateral plane of the intervertebral spacer device.

13. (currently amended) A spinal orthopedic device and tool set comprising:

an intervertebral spacer device having a first baseplate and a second baseplate, said first baseplate having an engagement hole; and

a manipulation tool having a proximal end, a distal end, and a shaft, said shaft including a central channel housing a spring, and a post, said post being permanently coupled with said manipulation tool and having a first position corresponding to said post being disposed entirely within said distal end of said manipulation tool, and a second position corresponding to said post extending outwardly from said distal end of said manipulation tool, wherein said spring in contact with said post biases said post into said first position, and wherein when said post is in said second position said post may be disposed within said engagement hole of said intervertebral device such that at least one of said first and second baseplates may be secured to said manipulation tool.

14. (cancelled).

15. (previously presented) The spinal orthopedic device and tool set of claim 13, wherein said manipulation tool further comprises a flange mechanically connected to said post wherein horizontal translation of the flange in the distal direction correspondingly translates said post from said first to said second position.